

KOOTENAI COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
501 Government Way  
Coeur d'Alene  
Kootenai County  
Idaho

HABS No. ID-102

HABS

ID,

28 - CODAL,

1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service, Western Region  
Department of the Interior  
San Francisco, California 94102

HABS  
ID,  
28-CODAL,  
1-

# HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

KOOTENAI COUNTY COURTHOUSE

HABS No. ID-102

LOCATION: 501 Government Way, Coeur d'Alene  
Kootenai County, State of Idaho

UTM Coordinates: 11/5, 16,100/ 52,80,240  
USGS Coeur d'Alene Quad. 15 min.

SIGNIFICANCE: The KOOTENAI COUNTY COURTHOUSE is significant in its architectural character as an example of Georgian-Revival style in Idaho. Its large round arched windows, balconied portico, and cornice and terra cotta details make it an imposing local building. It was designed by Spokane architect Julius Zittle and is the only example of his work in Coeur d'Alene.

DESCRIPTION: The KOOTENAI COUNTY COURTHOUSE is a buff brick building in the Georgian-Revival style. The two story symmetrical structure stands on a raised basement and has balancing three-bay wings. It is distinguished by its terra cotta ornamentation and Palladianesque round-arched windows.

The story-and-a-half portico includes two Roman Doric columns supporting an entablature with a triglyph and metope frieze and a balustered balcony. The second story round arched windows continue the balustrade motif. Below these windows is a cutstone and terra cotta band molding. Brick pilasters with terra cotta round arches frame the windows. Modillion-like keystones and wreathed spandrel plaques further enhance the prominence of the windows. Larger brick pilasters with terra cotta caps separate the windows and support the frieze. A parapet (with the Idaho State seal) rises from the cornice.

The building is basically rectangular (73' X 62') with an L shaped extension (25'7" X 27'6") at the northwest corner. There are three main entrances. The east door opens to a large landing and 9 steps to the first floor. The north entrance is also a ground level landing with 9 steps to the first floor and 9 steps down to the basement. The west entrance again has the two flights of 9 steps up to the first floor and down to the basement. The stair system from the west entrance continues up to the second and third floor. (see photos)

KOOTENAI COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
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DESCRIPTION:  
(CONT.)

The second floor courtrooms have two story ceilings, the third floor is the anterior of these courtrooms. The L shape at the northwest corner is a part of the basement, first and second floors.

The alteration proposed would add an elevator for barrier-free access to all citizens. This will be accomplished by a 28' extension on the west side of the building housing the new elevator, with stairs on either side, which will serve all three floors plus the basement. This addition will necessitate the removal of the west stair system. It is not possible to locate the elevator outside and connect to each floor at the existing staircase as the existing landings are at half levels between floors.

Items to be removed are: original marble staircase, original brick and insulation, and original wood windows. This location will not, however, disrupt the architectural integrity and the historic facade of the entire building.

HISTORY:

The KOOTENAI COUNTY COURTHOUSE was built in 1925-26. It was designed by Spokane architect Julius Zittle and the architectural firm of Williams and Williams. Its original purpose was as a county seat of government and that has been its continued function. Mr. Zittle with his partner, Herman Preuss, is responsible for some of Spokane's most important buildings.

The population of Kootenai County in the 1930 census records was 19,469. The County Seat was in Rathdrum (Westwood) from 1881 through 1908 when an electorate vote moved it to Coeur d'Alene. Elected County officials took office at the Coeur d'Alene City Hall in January, 1909. The City Hall continued to serve as the Courthouse until the completion of the present Courthouse in 1926.

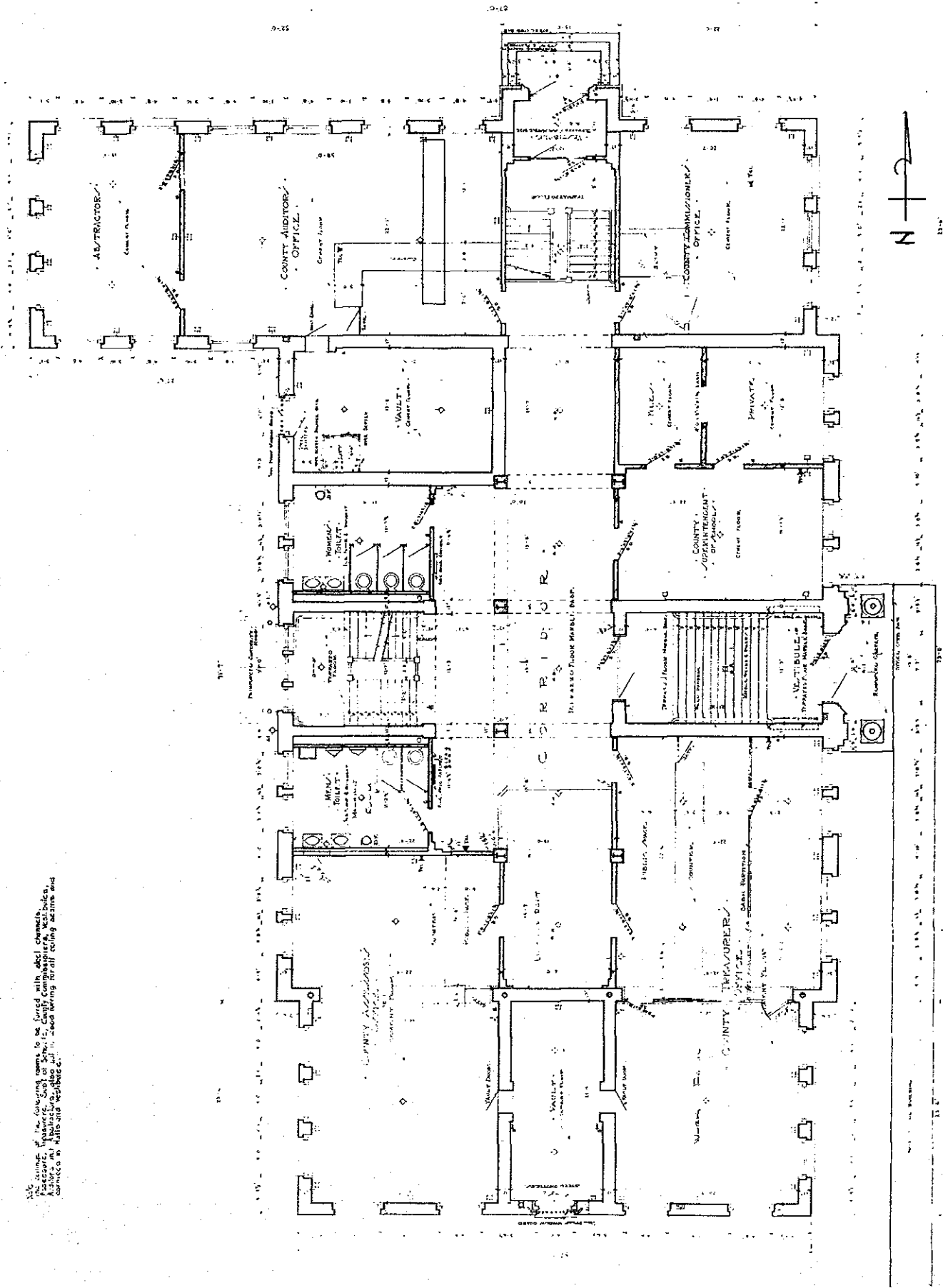
SOURCES:

National Register of Historic Places -- Nomination Form  
Original architectural drawings,  
Rathdrum Tribune - Jan. 15, 1909 p.1; May 21, 1926 p.1

HISTORIAN:

Barbara Richards  
Panhandle Area Council  
11/8/88

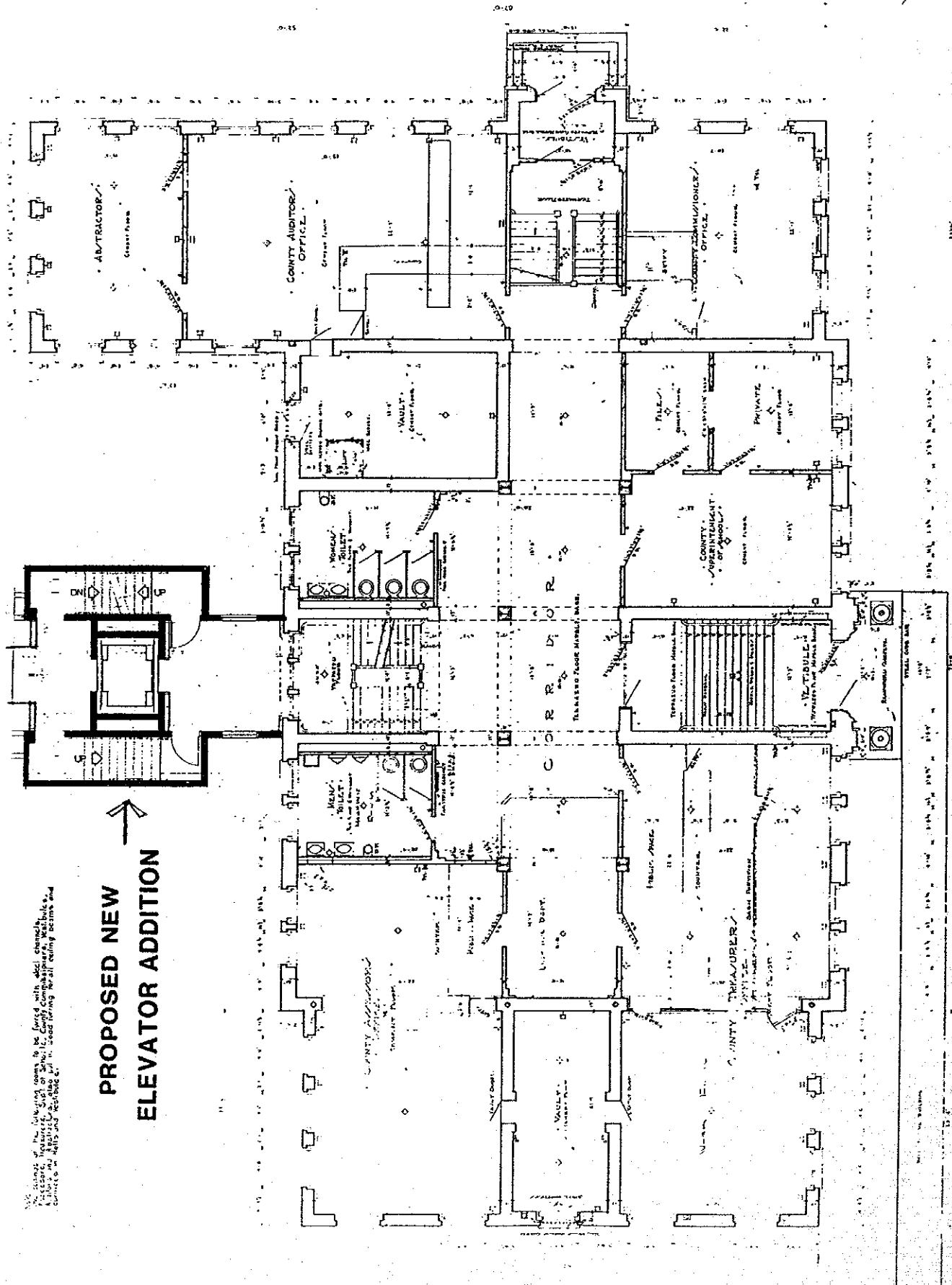
This documentation has been prepared in accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement among the Idaho Department of Commerce, the Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer, the Board of Kootenai County Commissioners, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.



ALL rooms of the following name to be lined with acid resistant material, except at 50' x 15' County Commissioners' Meeting Room in addition to the above.

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

KOOTENAI COUNTY COURT HOUSE  
COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO  
WILLIAM H. HARRIS ARCHITECT



THE PLANS OF THE BUILDING SHOWN HEREIN ARE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ILLUSTRATING THE PROPOSED ADDITION TO THE EXISTING BUILDING. THE PLANS ARE NOT TO BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE WITHOUT THE WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE ARCHITECT.

**PROPOSED NEW  
ELEVATOR ADDITION**

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

KOOTENAI COUNTY COURT HOUSE  
COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO  
JULY 1914

